Written Answers to Questions

International airport at Bhopal Indore

*22. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are major tourist points and pilgrimage centres in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Khajurao has the potential to attract foreigners from all over the world;

(c) if so, whether Government intend to convert Bhopal/Indore aerodrome into an International Airport and develop a tourism infrastructure in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Both these Airports will continue to be domestic Airports. However, Indore Airport is being developed as one of the 12 domestic model airports in the country where standard facilities for aircraft operation and passenger facilitation will be provided. When the work at Indore Airport is completed, the Airport will have provision for customs and immigration facilities as and when International flights operate. Presently, there is no demand from Airlines for operating international flights from Indore or Bhopal.

Holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir

*25. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated the election process in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what, according to the prevailing situation, are the election prospect in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the period by which elections in the State are likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI).

(a) to (c) The aim of the Government is to further promote conditions that would be conducive to normalisation and reactivisation of the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. Efforts are being made to accelerate development works by securing people's participation, reinvigorate the local administration and enhance the cooperation and confidence of the people in the administration. These are being monitored closely. With a view to proceeding towards the democratic process, the delimitation of constituencies is being done and the work of revision of the voters' list has been taken up by the Election Commission. A public debate is on regarding the various aspects of the democratic process. While it would not be possible to indicate at this juncture any specific time-frame for holding elections in the State, government is confident that as a result of the steps being taken the overall atmosphere for the democratic process will be strengthened, thus making elections feasible.

Fertilizer prices

*26. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether Government have any plan to ensure that fertilizer prices exceed those in the international markets so that the farmers' capacity to export is not impaired?